To Whom It May Concern:

RE: HB5287, AAC Licensure Of Facilities That Provide Temporary Care To Children With Minor Illnesses

My name is Kevin Riedel and I am a citizen of the state of Connecticut, residing in the town of Berlin. I am the father of twin 5-year-olds and consider myself to be a very active in their up-bringing. That said, my family is very active in the community This lifestyle allows me to interact with many other families. Recently, I've heard "thought the grapevine" of an interesting concept - the idea of a sick urgent care center for children.

As you're likely aware, sick children are not allowed to stay with daycare providers. In such circumstances, parents have no choice but to take time off from their jobs to take care of their children. This causes a couple of problems that are immediately apparent to me. First, the parent may not be able to take paid time off from work. And if the parent is lucky enough to be able to take unplanned time off, they are doing just that - using time off - time that is usually reserved for much-needed family vacations OR for their own illnesses. Second, it causes a strain on the business that the parents are employed by. Such unplanned time away can cause stress on the business, lower productivity, and possibly impact the employer's perception of the employee (parent).

Times are tough and jobs are important. For many, making ends meet every day is difficult. So any way in that the employer/employee relationship can be kept even-keeled is a boon to society. An urgent care center for children would give parents the opportunity to continue to make an income while their children are cared for by a physician and appropriate support staff.

I find it a very interesting concept. It's very appropriate (and needed) for the times we live in now. If the state could authorize centers such as this to operate, I believe that it would be a huge win for working families AND for businesses.

Sincerely,
Kevin Riedel
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